BBC Learning English Words in the News 16th November 2009





The stumps of ten rainforest trees, complete with their roots, have been placed around London's Trafalgar Square to highlight the issue of deforestation. Ghost Forest, by artist Angela Palmer, will remain in the square until Friday. David Sillito reports:

The ten **stumps** arrived overnight, having been shipped by the artist, Angela Palmer, from **a sustainable forestry** in Ghana. Most had fallen naturally, and the original trees would have been as tall as Nelson's column.

But now the **stumps** are **laid out across the square** as **an artwork**, **albeit** one with a purpose to show people what exactly has been lost through **deforestation** and also to celebrate the work in Ghana **to promote responsible logging**.

This though is only a **temporary** exhibition. The trees have to make another journey after this, to Copenhagen and the forthcoming UN climate change conference.

David Sillito, BBC News, London

Vocabulary and definitions

stumps	here, a stump means the roots and the base of the trunk of a fallen tree
a sustainable forestry	forestland that has been planted for commercial purposes and is carefully managed so it can continue to grow for a long period of time
laid out across the square	put in a particular order, as instructed by the artist, in different parts of the square
an artwork	something beautiful and/or thought-provoking that has been created by human effort rather than by nature; sometimes a work of art is created to serve a particular purpose or to promote a particular cause, e.g. here, to attract people's attention to the threat of deforestation (see below)
albeit	even though, although
deforestation	causing a lot of damage to forests by cutting down a lot of trees in large areas
to promote responsible logging temporary	to encourage people to cut down trees responsibly, i.e. causing forests as little harm as possible not permanent, existing for a limited period of time

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8093912.stm

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/11/091116 witn ghost forest.shtml